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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,593	03/15/2004	Isamu Ohshita	107156-00231	8284
4372	7590	07/03/2006	EXAMINER	
ARENT FOX PLLC 1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 400 WASHINGTON, DC 20036			GARRETT, DAWN L	
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		1774

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/799,593	OHSHITA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dawn Garrett	1774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2-4 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment dated May 1, 2006. Claims 5-12 are cancelled. Claims 1-4 are pending.
2. It is noted that the wrong serial number is listed in the bottom heading of the amendment to the claims and response filed May 1, 2006.
3. The objection to claim 11 set forth in the last Office action (mailed February 1, 2006) is withdrawn due to the cancellation of claim 11.
4. The rejection of claims 9, 10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the last Office action, paragraphs 7-9, is withdrawn due to the cancellation of these claims.
5. The rejection of claims 6, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rogers (US 6,081,071) is withdrawn due to the cancellation of these claims.
6. The indicated allowability of claims 1-4 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Ishii et al. and Yamazaki et al. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

8. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishii et al. (US 6,551,724). Ishii et al. discloses an EL device with a sealing cap covering. A hygroscopic agent (desiccating member) is disposed in the sealing cap. An air permeable sheet (drop prevention sheet) is formed over the agent in a concave shape (see Figure 4B). The agent is considered to be in a concave shape due to the shape of the permeable sheet, which holds it in place.

9. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (US 20050092984). Yamazaki et al. discloses hygroscopic substances within a cover for an EL device. The hygroscopic substance is held in place by a concave portion (drop sheet) (see par. 196 and Figure 17 B). The substance is considered to be in a concave shape due to the shape of the concave portion, which holds it in place.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 2-4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Ishii et al. and Yamazaki et al. discussed herein are considered to be the closest prior art. Neither Ishii et al. nor Yamazaki et al. disclose a molded hygroscopic body as set forth in the claims.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dawn Garrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-1523. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached at (571) 272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Dawn Garrett
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1774

D.G.
June 28, 2006